

(10 on continuous drawing.)

*Founded on Whitechapel's Tragedies and Expressing the Author's
Theory of that Series of Myteries.*

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS:

On account of the resemblance existing between Evelyn Hardcastle and the latest victim of a series of murders which have startled London, her grandfather, Mr. Mansfield, presents her with a peculiar toker to guard her against the unknown fiend. The same night Evelyn's murder is accomplished, but the toker stops the point of the assassin's dagger, who escapes undetected. Evelyn's affianced lover, and all attempts to resuscitate him fail. A Hindu student is found dead, killed by the same mysterious dagger. Confronted with Mansfield with the narrative which is strengthened by the knowledge that he visited the Hindu a few hours before his death occurred. At the instant it is settled beyond a doubt that the Hindu was the murderer, because by a letter which was found on him. From a manuscript written by the Hindu, it is learned that the latter learned by a letter which was found on him. From a manuscript written by the Hindu, it is learned that the latter learned the secret of the murders by the letter which was found on him. From a manuscript written by the Hindu, it is learned that the latter learned the secret of the murders by the letter which was found on him. From a manuscript written by the Hindu, it is learned that the latter learned the secret of the murders by the letter which was found on him.

CHAPTER XV.

COL. MANSFIELD'S STRANOR MANUSCRIPT CONTINUED.

"I know you will view with amazement my statements," continued Col. Mansfield in his extraordinary manuscript, "if you do not altogether question my sanity, out what I am telling you is, believe me, the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

"To return to Ram Dass. I have already explained to you that it was not within my power to detain him. All I could do was to make the one whose life he threatened safe against his attack, and this I did. I know that he will fail, and that his failure will mean his destruction.

"Failure on such a mission has but one

"The man is beyond human justice by this. He has escaped his fate any more than he could have evaded the work of the mission upon which he was sent.

"You will want to know how I know this, and what was the particular virtue of the talisman which I hung around Evelyn's neck.

"It would take more time than I have now to spare to explain this matter thoroughly to you. Suffice it to say that there are two Brotherhoods of what you in the West are pleased to call the Occult. One is the Brotherhood of Light, and the other of Darkness; and while the latter endeavors to debase mankind and arouse all the evil that is in them, the former seeks to spiritualize man and to lead him towards higher and nobler things. Between the two Brotherhoods there is a perpetual war, the Brothers of Darkness seeking to devour to save, the Brothers of Light, in virtue of the higher life they lead and

"I remained with this Brother for close upon two years, sharing the same cave with him and living even as he did.

"In this way I made myself a master of many of the treasured secrets of nature, and rediscovered, what this material world has long since forgotten, the connecting links between man and the spirit world.

"In the end I was admitted into the sacred presence of the Master and enrolled as a student of the occult.

"Then made known to me, and I was given the power of separating my soul from my body.

"The human form is, after all, but the case which contains the soul. Destroy the shell, and the spirit escapes and seeks another habitation. This even you, sceptic that you are, cannot deny. And how, then, they may believe in the existence of a soul in some shape or other. But while the body—the outer cover of the soul—exists, the soul is bound, and cannot many have been able to analyze and dissect the soul? Your materialist, with dissecting knife in hand, cuts and rips the human mind apart, and then, with a triumphant cry, triumph; 'See, I have laid bare every nerve; here is the brain, there is the heart, where is the soul?'

"Of course the soul is not there. To search



HE CARRIED THE MS. INTO THE FIRE.

I lay on my back on a white marble bench of a Buddhist temple thousands of feet above the level of the sea. The temple was roofless and open to the sky, and above me shone the bright stars, and the rays of the full moon fell across my face. In a little while I slept, and then a strange thing happened. My body grew stiff and all physical movement was suspended. But while my body remained motionless and disconnected with life by the merest thread, my brain was additionally active. I

"Since then I have been able to detach my soul from my body at will.

"In this state of suspended animation you will find that I shall be as one dead, but not with the death of decay, for the spark of life will be still within my body, but the spirit, the imperishable soul, will be absent.

"The Brothers of Darkness will seek to revenge themselves on me for thwarting their plans, and the order will go forth that I must die. It is necessary for me to take my life, and my earthly form will no longer be protected by the talisman I received from the hands of the Master.

"I am expecting to find me unprotected, but I shall disappoint them. Ere danger can threaten me I shall have separated my soul from my body, and I shall have obeyed the Dominion of Light, where the Master of Darkness has no power over me. The messengers of Darkness will not molest my body if it is not where they want, and that, as I have said, will be absent.

"With the full moon the power of the darkness will be at its height, and then only will my spirit reinherit its earthly envelope.

"Come, therefore, to my rooms on the 26th of this month, a little before midnight, and I shall be once more with you.

must bring this hurried communication to an end.

"I want you to promise me, not only to destroy what I have written, but never to ask me a single word upon the subject when I again meet.

"This much I feel sure you will do.

"Do not, I beg you, alarm yourself on my account: for it will, I trust, be well with me."

"Till the 20th, then, I shall be, I hope, at home."

"—HONORABLE MANFIELD."

"P.S.—If death should, however, overtake me before I can have placed myself in a position of safety, you will know why and how it has been. It will then remain for you to explain matters to Evelyn as your good judgment dictates. I enclose a statement of my affairs, and the name and address of my lawyer in case anything goes wrong. I have, you will see, appointed you sole executor."

Harvey read this extraordinary letter over and over again until every word was burned in his memory. Then he took his friend's possibly written pages and cast them into the fire.

Out of the smoke weird forms seemed to materialize. Harvey saw the face of his mother and of his father, and he saw the flames devouring the letters.

(To be Continued Monday.)